

## *How to Apply*

If you are interested in this uniquely rewarding program, contact the Office of Professional Practice as early as possible. The more communication you have with the program office, the more information can be shared with corporate partners.

During your first semester, you must express interest in order to gain full consideration for selection as a DESP scholar. Selections are made during a candidate's second academic semester.

Once accepted into the program, corporate partners will review each scholar's materials and make their selections after candidates have met all DESP requirements.

## *Application Information*

An excellent way to find out more about the DESP program is to visit the College of Engineering. Please contact us to arrange a tour of the facilities and a session with a DESP counselor:

**Office of Professional Practice**  
**Attn: Diversity Engineering Scholarship Program**  
**310 Perkins Hall**  
**Knoxville, TN 37996-2030**  
**Phone: (865) 974-5323**  
**Fax: (865) 974-3707**  
**E-mail: [coop@utk.edu](mailto:coop@utk.edu)**  
**Online: [www.engr.utk.edu/desp](http://www.engr.utk.edu/desp)**

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Inquiries and charges of violation concerning Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) or any of the other above referenced policies should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-3560, telephone (865) 974-2498 (V/TTY available) or 974-2440. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the UTK Office of Human Resources, 600 Henley Street, Knoxville, TN 37996-4125.

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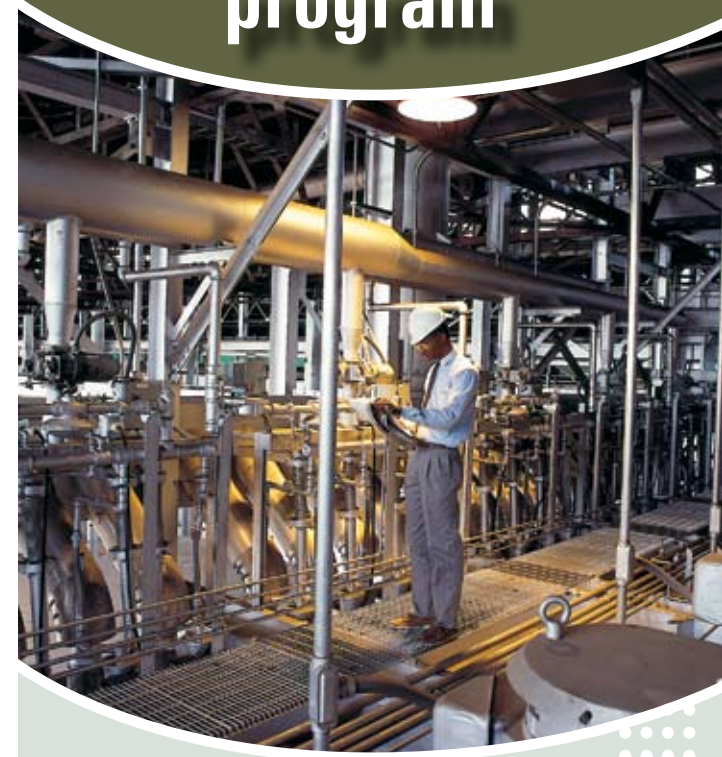


**College of Engineering**

Office of Professional Practice  
310 Perkins Hall  
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THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE   
College of Engineering

# diversity engineering scholarship program



[www.engr.utk.edu/desp](http://www.engr.utk.edu/desp)

## *A Message from the Director*

We appreciate your interest in the UT College of Engineering and the Diversity Engineering Scholarship Program (DESP).

Originally established as the Minority Engineering Scholarship Program in 1973, DESP has provided ongoing support for generations of minority engineering students. Due in large part to the success of this focus on diversity, the college has consistently graduated a significantly large number of African-American students each year.

DESP is currently administered through the Office of Professional Practice (OPP) and still retains its original goals: to attract, educate and graduate responsible engineers to address the challenges of our society and the world.

Sincerely,  
Walter Odom, DESP Director

## *What is the DESP?*

The UT College of Engineering's **Diversity Engineering Scholarship Program (DESP)** is designed to attract, educate and graduate responsible African American engineers dedicated to addressing and solving the challenges of our modern society. As a DESP scholar, you will benefit from the financial support and employment experience offered by work assignments with UT's corporate partners. The program, administered by the Office of Professional Practice (OPP), blends academics with valuable real-world career experience to prepare you for the future at a higher compensation level than the average part-time job.



## *Who is Eligible?*

The DESP is open to all African American students meeting the requirements for admission to the UT College of Engineering. Potential DESP candidates are often recruited in high school based on recommendations from teachers and guidance counselors. Students are encouraged to apply for this prestigious scholarship program as early as possible, preferably prior to beginning their first year at UT.

## *Program Requirements*

During their first two semesters at UT, all DESP scholars must attend an introduction seminar and agree to comply with all requirements and expectations associated with the DESP and the OPP. Students must also:

- attend time management, goal setting, ethics, interviewing and resume seminars
- attend a co-op student debrief (oral reports presented by returning co-op students)
- meet with an OPP coordinator to discuss career plans
- maintain full-time student status (at least 12 hours of course work), unless exempted by the OPP Director

To help with the transition to college life, each DESP scholar will be matched with an upper-level mentor in the College of Engineering that will be able to discuss technical questions, study problems or personal issues.

Awardees must stay in compliance by taking courses approved by the COE faculty advisor that meet progression standards and achieve an academic semester GPA of 2.7. Most corporate partners require scholars to maintain a 3.0 grade point average throughout their undergraduate years.

## *How the Program Works*

Once accepted into the program, DESP scholars usually begin Co-op Engineering work assignments in their sophomore year. After meeting the semester academic standard, each completed assignment comes with a financial award of \$2000. DESP participants generally schedule four alternating work assignments before graduation. However, five or more work assign-

ments assure an even distribution of awards. Any changes to the assignment schedule must be approved in advance by the OPP Director, faculty advisor and the corporate partner. Subsequent assignments are based on performance, and all students must earn the invitation to return.

An academic incentive has been structured into the scholarship, whereby all scholars who achieve a minimum 3.0 GPA during their last two semesters before graduation will receive an additional \$1000—for a total of \$3000—rather than the normal award of \$2000. This means that DESP scholars are eligible to receive a total award of up to \$16,000.

Since all Co-op Engineering work assignments are paid positions, scholars can earn from \$24,000 to \$30,000 after four assignments. Combine that with the DESP awards and you can wind up with as much as \$46,000 over four years, making this one of the most attractive engineering scholarship packages in the country.

## *Additional Benefits*

Each work assignment will give you the opportunity to network with experienced engineers and potential future employers and colleagues. Outstanding academic success—a GPA of 3.0 or higher—increases your eligibility for other UT and College of Engineering scholarships.

The OPP is accredited by the ABET Engineering Accreditation Program. Upon completion of your DESP requirements, you will receive a Co-op certificate stating that you have met the ABET criteria and have completed one year of relevant engineering experience.

